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(SEE BULLETIN NO. 3) B. ANTHONY STEWART

FROM ANCIENT TIMES, ART AND CARTOGRAPHY HAVE COMBINED TO INSTRUCT AND ADORN

Pupils in a Washington, D. C., school find pictorial maps more than doubly useful. In addition to their primary purpose of teaching geography, the National Geographic Society's maps on the schoolroom wall supplement history with their border pictures of noted men and women, and famous landmarks. Their decorations and format offer useful suggestions to young art students.

Bulletin No. 1, March 9, 1953

Ireland Revives Ancient Festival

IT is "at home" to the world that Ireland will be next month, and a host of visitors will be hearing the warm Gaelic expression of greeting which says: "A hundred thousand welcomes to you!"

Since last autumn the Emerald Isle has been busied with preparations for the revival of an ancient festival. Villages, towns, and cities have been vying to make a grand success of the three-week observance beginning April 5.

Scenic Beauty Oft Extolled

As in the days of the country's greatness, it will be *An Tostal* (rhymes with coastal) time. That old Irish term stands for many things —muster, pageant, array. It includes culture as well as sport. It means, above all, a gay occasion when each guest is expected to enjoy himself, and that goes for the hosts, too.

The Republic of Ireland feels it has much to offer. Song and story have celebrated the haunting beauty of the countryside, of Killarney's lakes (illustration, inside cover) and the River Shannon. There is the Blarney stone to be kissed by those seeking a smooth-talking tongue in their heads. Scholars will find relics of great antiquity to interest them, and places steeped in historic and literary traditions.

Spring comes early, for the warm Gulf Stream bathes Erin's shores and gives it a mild climate. Ample rain makes the country green the year 'round. The best grasslands compare with the renowned "blue grass" regions of Kentucky; they are likewise famous for the fine horses they raise.

Irish hospitality is proverbial. The people like visitors, and any one making a first trip will be struck by the vivid, picturesque way they have of speaking. An American student, on a bicycle tour, once came upon a farmer by a roadside spring and thirstily asked if the water was cold. "Cold," said the man, "why it will shiver the teeth in your head."

Civilization's Refuge in Dark Ages

The fourth anniversary of the republic occurs during the festival; it was on April 18, 1949, that the last official ties with the United Kingdom were cut. Previously, as a member of the British Commonwealth, the country had been called Eire (Ai-reh), its name in the remote past.

An Tostal's revival stresses the heritage of that Golden Age when the kings ruled, minstrels sang, and the arts flourished. Great men from all over Europe came for knowledge of the country's advanced culture; with them flocked students to its schools. From the fifth to the ninth century, when barbarian hordes plunged Europe into dark ages, Ireland was the main haven for the preservation of Western civilization.

Today's nation is a mite as nations go. Its 26,600 square miles equal only half the area of Arkansas. There are slightly less than 3,000,000 people, most of them living in rural areas.

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BRANSON DE COU FROM GALLOWAY

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 1)

KILLARNEY'S LAKES AND FELLS, SO POPULAR WITH VISITORS, LOOK THEIR BEST AT SPRINGTIDE

Now preserved as a national park for the enjoyment of all, the three lakes of Killarney and their surrounding countryside are located in Kerry County, near the southwest tip of Ireland. In April and May the land is emerald fresh, touched with fuchsia, heather, and gorse that add tints of golden yellow, mauve, and purple. Ruins of an ancient castle and abbeys enhance the timeless spell of the setting. Tombs of nobles and poets of Ireland's great days stir thoughts of the Golden Age.

"Great" Is the Word for Ohio

IS Ohio one of these United States according to the strict letter of the law?

The question leaves Ohioans unworried for they are cutting a birthday cake with 150 candles to mark the number of years their star has had its place on the nation's flag.

New Stamp Honors Sesquicentennial

The Post Office Department recognizes the anniversary with a new stamp. The country has accepted eight presidents from Ohio, all but one born there, as well as many statesmen, military leaders, and other noted figures. As far as Buckeyes are concerned, this makes their status quite official. If a technicality was overlooked in 1803, it is past history.

Some scholars claim that such an oversight did occur because Congress never adopted a resolution formally admitting Ohio to the Union as its 17th state. Others argue that the "consent" required by Article IV of the Constitution was given when Ohio's first senators and representatives were seated unchallenged.

To clear up matters once and for all, the present Congress has been asked to pass the formal resolution its predecessors forgot and to give it an effective date as of a century and a half ago.

Up until that time Ohio was part of the old Northwest Territory, a large area around the Great Lakes and between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. This territory also included the future states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota.

Buckeye Trees Nickname State

Ohio selected for its name the Iroquois word meaning "great." The subsequent development of the state in agriculture, industry, wealth, and prestige offers abundant evidence that this choice was a happy one.

In the early days much of the state was covered by woodlands. Most distinctive of the trees was the buckeye, a relative of the cultivated Asiatic horse chestnut. The tree led to the nicknames "Buckeye State" and "Buckeyes" for its people.

Nature was generous to Ohio in natural resources and the state's location has helped Ohioans use them to good advantage virtually from the beginning when it was the gateway to the Mississippi and the beckoning West.

Judged by size, Ohio is not big; only 14 states are smaller. It ranked fifth in the last census, however, with a population just under 8,000,000, and it paid the fifth-largest amount of the income taxes collected by Uncle Sam in 1952.

Farming, manufacturing, and distributing industries combine to give today's Ohio a varied and well-balanced economy. Coal reserves are ample, and iron ore from Michigan and Minnesota flows into the Lake Erie ports to be converted into pig iron and steel, basic materials which other industries transform into an amazing variety of goods.

The state's progress has been marked by the rise of some of the

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The government is much concerned about the size of the population. A little more than a century ago the total was some 8,000,000 people. Then the famines of the 1840's came. Hundreds of thousands died of starvation; as many more emigrated to other lands. Within a short time, the population dropped to 4,000,000.

Emigration continues even now. Almost a thousand years of troubled history has left Ireland an undeveloped nation by Western standards. The government is trying to remedy this by working for development of industries and thus bring about a fuller life. While progress has been made, not enough opportunities yet exist. Young people, not interested in farming or the work available in cities, depart to try their fortunes elsewhere.

It is an old story, that of the Irish leaving to make their mark in the world—for other nations. A MacMahon became a President of France. An O'Higgins liberated Chile. In the United States a Dublin emigrant, James Hoban, designed and built the White House. However, a majority of these men and many others of great talent left for political or kindred reasons.

NOTE: Ireland is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of The British Isles. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a map price list.

See also, "I Walked Some Irish Miles," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for May, 1951; "Old Ireland, Mother of New Eire," May, 1940; and "Ireland: The Rock Whence I was Hewn," March, 1927. *(Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained by schools and libraries from the Society's headquarters at a special discounted price of 50¢ a copy, 1946–to date; 90¢, 1930–1945; $1.90, 1913–1929. Earlier issues at varied prices.)*

ALFRED ERIS, BLACK STAR

DUBLIN'S BUSY O'CONNELL STREET IS EUROPE'S WIDEST, THE IRISH CLAIM

Geography Aids Moslem Prayers

MOSLEMS, enjoined by their religion to direct their prayers toward Mecca, must master geography lest the prayers go astray.

Many of the faithful do face east, and this has given rise outside of Islam to a common belief that they all do. But others face west, a few look to the north, and some turn their faces south. It depends upon where they live.

Directions May Be Deceptive

The worshipper has no problem of direction when he goes to an established mosque. There the beautifully decorated *mihrab*, or prayer niche, is always carefully and scientifically oriented.

Aboard ships at sea, the prayer leader often consults the captain. Alone, the Moslem depends upon his knowledge or ingenuity to determine the direction in which Mecca lies. He does his best, then trusts that Allah the Merciful, the Compassionate, will hearken to the plea of a devout heart even if it has traveled a faulty route.

Arabs long ago mastered spherical trigonometry, basis of accurate map making (illustration, cover) and gave it to a Christian world which somehow had forgotten the teachings of the ancient Greeks that the earth was round. Wellman Chamberlin, of the National Geographic Society's cartographic staff, recently did something toward returning the favor.

The Moslems are building an impressive mosque in Washington, D. C.—the first the nation's capital has had. Some, thinking in terms of a Mercator map, feared that the mihrab was inaccurately placed.

"It looks as though it points toward Newfoundland, not Mecca," said one of the worried Moslem critics.

The mosque's architect took his problem to Mr. Chamberlin.

"Actually," the map expert assured him, "Newfoundland isn't too far off. The Great Circle route, shorter than the Mercator, follows close to the North American shore line. It passes over Philadelphia, New York, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland. It touches Cairo, as the Mercator line does not."

After crossing the Atlantic fishing banks and iceberg fields, the shortest trigonometrically correct prayer path to Mecca circles south to the coast of France near Bordeaux. It passes over Marseille and Alexandria, ports used by many Moslems who make the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Mercator Route Passes Farther South

At Cairo, it touches the Al Azhar University, then follows down the Red Sea to Mecca, the spiritual heart of Islam.

The longer Mercator route, on the other hand, passes between Portugal's Madeira and Spain's Canary islands. It reaches the south coast of Morocco near Agadir and continues on through the snowy Atlas Mountains and the hot, sandy wastes of the Sahara.

Near Upper Egypt's southern boundary it crosses the Nile and the narrows of the Red Sea. Reaching Jidda, seaport for the holy city, it

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nation's best-known cities: Cleveland, seventh-largest in the country, Cincinnati, Columbus, the capital, Toledo, Dayton, Akron, and Youngstown. A new name probably will be added to the list a few years hence upon completion of the $1,200,000,000 atomic-energy plant, now being built near Waverly in the southern part of the state.

This casting of Ohio for an important role in the advance of the atomic era is a reminder that the state is mother of three men whose genius has had a profound effect on the nature of the modern world. Two brothers from Dayton, Wilbur and Orville Wright, introduced the air age. Milan, a small hamlet near Sandusky, was the birthplace of Thomas A. Edison, pioneer of the age of electricity, who invented the light bulb, electric motors, the phonograph, and motion picture cameras.

In all, Edison patented more than 1,000 inventions. Considering the pending bill to rectify Capitol Hill's 1803 oversight on Ohio's statehood, his first patent is not without interest. He obtained it on an electrical device for recording the votes in Congress.

NOTE: Ohio is shown on the Society's map of the Northeastern States.

See also, "So Much Happens Along the Ohio River," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1950; "Skyway Below the Clouds," July, 1949; and "Ohio, the Gateway State," May, 1932.

ALBERT W. STEVENS

A RELIC OF OHIO'S PREHISTORIC PAST WRITHES ITS WAY ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE

Indians who lived in the region centuries before Ohio was born built this effigy mound. Archeologists believe it was designed for ceremonial and religious purposes rather than for burial.

Bulletin No. 4, March 9, 1953

Florida and Texas Welcome Spoonbills Back

ROSEATE spoonbills, among the least-known yet loveliest of America's birds, are nesting again in increasing numbers on tiny, uninhabited islands off the tip of Florida and along the Gulf coast of Texas.

Once practically extinct in the United States, the return of the spoonbills—first to Texas and now to Florida—marks a triumph of wildlife conservation.

Its Beauty Lies in Rosy Plumage

The spoonbill, or *Ajaia ajaja*, is a contradiction with wings. Like a feathered freak from the Land of Oz, or an animated cartoon, it peers nearsightedly from bright red eyes above a beak like a bony spatula. It wears a black kerchief over its ears, and its legs are knobby stilts.

But between neck and knees, the roseate spoonbill is pure glory. Its body—the size of a wild turkey's—is robed in a mass of soft feathers, pure white, delicate pink, and flaming red.

This spectacular plumage almost brought about the extinction of the spoonbill. The beautiful birds were slaughtered by the thousands to be made into fans and feathered hats. By 1900, they had all but vanished from this country. There were no known breeding colonies in Texas in 1919, and almost none in Florida. Only in remote lagoons of Mexico and Cuba did the flame-winged water birds cling to life.

The rescue of the spoonbill came about dramatically. In 1931 the National Audubon Society set aside as sanctuaries several groups of small islands along the Texas coast, where the birds were known to exist. These havens were patrolled during the nesting months. Within 10 years the spoonbill population of the Texas littoral had jumped to thousands.

Hunting Is Banned

Similar action saved Florida's spoonbills, although it took more time. The Audubon Society assigned a warden to shallow Florida Bay at the southern tip of Florida, below the Everglades.

In 1946, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service took over the job of patrolling the area. Florida Bay has since been made a part of the Everglades National Park (opened to the public in 1947), and all hunting there has been banned.

With both protection and privacy, the great pink birds soon began to multiply. Breeding flocks of hundreds are counted today among the mangrove swamps of the Florida keys.

Strutting on their rubbery knees or ducking for food in the shallows, with an odd scythelike motion of their broad, flat beaks, spoonbills are a grotesque sight.

Occasionally in the premating season a flock of wading birds, all in seemingly mechanical unison like the characters in a Disney cartoon, will point their spoon-shaped bills skyward and gaze rigidly into space for long periods of time, as though they were hypnotized. What they look at is anybody's guess.

The spoonbill's face is plain—to describe it as kindly as possible—

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then has 50 miles to unroll before reaching Islam's most sacred spot, the Kaaba in the court of the Great Mosque at Mecca.

Gerardus Mercator, 16th-century Flemish geographer and mathematician, devised his map-making system primarily for navigators. The first map which he drew on the now famous Mercator projection appeared in 1569. Although various defects make this projection inaccurate and distorted for use on maps showing large areas of land surface, the Mercator is still used, and is standard for sea navigation. The United States and British air forces use it for aeronautical charts.

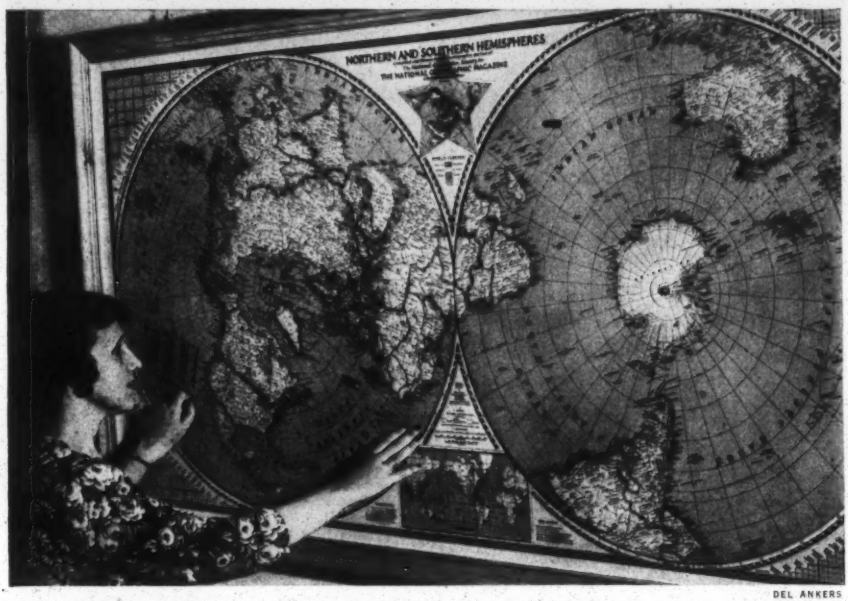
In maps showing large sea areas near the Equator, the Mercator produces less distortion than most other projections. The National Geographic Society used it in its large maps of the Pacific and Indian oceans.

The Egyptians are known to have used maps as early as the 14th century B. C. The ancient Greeks also used them before the Christian era. In the second century A. D., Ptolemy, the Greek astronomer and geographer, wrote a *Guide to Geography* which was supplemented with maps.

NOTE: Mecca is shown on the Society's maps of Africa and Southwest Asia.

For additional information on Mohammedan (Moslem) countries, see "In Search of Arabia's Past," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1948; "Arab Land Beyond the Jordan" (18 color photographs), December, 1947; "Guest in Saudi Arabia," October, 1945; and numerous other articles listed in the *Cumulative Index to the National Geographic Magazine* under "Mohammedans and Mohammedanism."

For further information on map making, see "The Story of the Map," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1932; and the Society's pamphlet, *The Round Earth on Flat Paper*, which is available at 75¢ a copy.



DEL ANKERS

THIS MAP SHOWS THAT A CURVED LINE CAN SHORTEN THE DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO POINTS

This map of the Northern and Southern hemispheres, which the National Geographic Society published during World War II, was one of the first to present the "polar concept" of geography. In the air age this is particularly important as it graphically demonstrates how much the routes across polar regions shorten the distance between the Old and New worlds.

Bulletin No. 5, March 9, 1953

Saba Is Smallest of Netherlands Antilles

THE Netherlands Antilles appear to have solved a problem similar to that the British must soon face in mapping the yet undecided pattern of future government for those Caribbean isles under the British flag.

The Netherlands West Indies group, known officially as the Netherlands Antilles, consists of Saba, St. Eustatius, and the southern half of St. Martin (the northern half belongs to France), in the Leeward Islands; and Aruba, Curaçao, and Bonaire, about 550 miles to the southwest, off the coast of South America.

Governor Represents Crown

These two clusters of islands form a unit that is part of Queen Juliana's kingdom, not a colony. Hence the Netherlands government is responsible for all matters of defense and foreign affairs. Since 1950, the Netherlands Antilles has had a temporary constitution which provides for a governor representing the Crown and a Legislative Council.

Smallest of the group—an almost invisible speck on the map—Saba is perhaps the most interesting and unusual of the islands. It is a volcanic mass of contradictions. Although a Dutch island, English is the prevailing language; boats are built on a mountaintop; and, strangest of all, Saba's chief town—Bottom—stands topside.

Saba is one of the very few golden isles of the Caribbean which make no special attempt to attract tourists. There are scarcely half a dozen rooms for guests on the steep little island.

Saba is five square miles of volcanic rock midway between Puerto Rico and Guadeloupe. Of comparatively recent geological origin, it rises sheer from the sea, a single cone more than 2,850 feet high. The pounding surf which lashes at the base of the island seems to delight in the fact that Saba has no harbor.

Jeeps Succeed Donkeys as Transport

To approach the island from the schooner, which calls weekly from St. Kitts (in the British West Indies), a visitor must trust to luck and the seamanship of the Saba boatmen. Skillfully maneuvering their surfboats to the crest of a wave, they dash between threatening rocks to a crash landing at Fort Bay, a beach about as big as a bedspread.

Jeeps, the only vehicles on the island, transport visitors upward to Bottom over Saba's new concrete road, built laboriously by hand. It winds up the mountain through a fissure in the reddish-brown rock known as the Gap. Long a trail over which the islanders carried everything they needed either on their own heads or the backs of donkeys, this break in the steep sides of the mountain was probably dug by a lava flow from the crater above.

At the top of the road, 800 feet above the sea, stands Bottom, principal one of the island's four villages and seat of Saba's government. It nestles in the basin of an extinct crater—the only reasonably level area on the island. Most of the dwellings are of wood, painted in bright colors and set in gardens of tropical flowers and shrubs.

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but when the bird takes to the air its body becomes a flash of living color. Its legs and underwing feathers are the deep rose-pink of a spectacular sunrise. On its shoulders are dripping epaulets of crimson; its tail is splashed with yellow and orange.

In Texas flocks of spoonbills nest almost in the shadows of oil derricks. They rise skyward in fantastic waves of color within sight of lumbering tankers and grimy oil barges, less than 40 miles from the skyscrapers of Houston.

NOTE: Island homes of the roseate spoonbills may be located on the Society's maps of the Southeastern United States and South Central United States.

See also, "The Pink Birds of Texas," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1949; "South Florida's Amazing Everglades," January, 1940; and "Large Wading Birds," October, 1932 (out of print; refer to your library).

S. A. GRIMES

ONE OF FLORIDA'S UP-AND-COMING ROSEATE SPOONBILLS SPREADS ROSY WINGS FOR BALANCE AS IT MINCES ALONG A BRANCH IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

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Making a garden grow on the rugged island is a problem. Except at Windward Side (illustration, below), there is scarcely enough moisture to support much vegetation. There a heavy dew every night keeps the crops from drying up. Most of the food must be imported.

From Bottom the road extends eastward to the village of St. John, then angles north to the other two settlements, Windward Side and Hells Gate. In these smaller villages, which cling to steep mountain sides, descendents of early English settlers build boats of cedar, cypress, and spruce. When ready for launching, the boats are carried to the sea on the men's shoulders, or lowered down the cliffs by ropes.

Saba is home to nearly 1,200 people, and about half of them live in Bottom. There are at least two women for every man and they add to the family income by selling their fine embroidery by mail, in the shops of Curaçao, and to the few visitors who brave Saba's surf.

Most of the young men of the island go to sea or to work in the oil refineries on Curaçao and Aruba. They send money home to their parents and sisters. But their absence results in a great scarcity of marriageable men.

That is why the women of Saba anxiously await the weekly schooner and the occasional steamer. The ship may bring a payment for their embroidery, a check from a brother or a son overseas, or—who knows—an eligible bachelor.

NOTE: Saba may be located on the Society's map of Countries of the Caribbean.

See also, "*Carib* Cruises the West Indies," in *The National Geographic Magazine* for January, 1948; and "Saba, Crater Treasure of the Indies," July, 1942.

CHARLES W. HERBERT

A SABA SCHOOLTEACHER RIDES A HIGH-STEPPING STEED TO HER POST

Up the steep slopes on which the village of Windward Side is built, she follows a rough and stony trail. A horse is a special privilege of her position. Since completion of the road from the beach to the top of the cliffs, jeeps have been added to Saba's transportation facilities. Typical Saba houses, wooden, neatly painted, and trimly landscaped, dot the hillsides around the church.